

**REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2015**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

Present: Councilors Hemmann, Kotkin, Martino, Manousos, Rell, Roberts, Deputy Mayor Barry, and Chairperson Montinieri. Absent: Councilor Hurley.

Also present: Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk.

Councilor Manousos led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd. commented on the raises given out within the state government while the citizens are being hammered. He commented on the Superintendent's proposed Board of Education budget with a 3.8 percent increase; people get things for doing nothing or less than nothing including our Board of Education and the people at the State Capitol. He stated the Governor is talking about resetting of the state budget and it is serious business. Instead of raising taxes, towns should cut their costs. Tax sales and throwing people out of their homes and it is not a nice thing to do; we should be holding our taxes down so people can afford to stay in their homes. He does not think we should not continue to accept grants.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Kotkin reported: the Insurance Committee met, the trending on health care was still a bit above budget, about \$72,000 in deficit through the first half of the year. If that continues we won't be seeing a flat year in health care costs that we have had over the last couple of years. We have to keep monitoring; it's just a lot of claims, not many of them terribly large.

Councilor Kotkin reported that the CIRMA (liability, auto, property and worker's comp policy) will be coming in February to meet with the Insurance Committee. Trend on worker's comp, still isn't that great as we've seen some 15% increases in recent years. Trend on liability, auto and property is quite good. We have seen good trends there and not so good trends on worker's comp but we will hear more from CIRMA in February.

Councilor Kotkin reported that the Budget and Finance Committee met. This was the annual meeting between Blum Shapiro, our auditors, and the Budget and Finance Committee. The Mayor joined us as well as the Town Manager and the Finance Director. The good news is that Jeff, his staff, Mike O'Neil, the staff got very good reviews from our auditors, very, very strong controls. They had a few suggestions, one is maybe having a tip line which some other organization, some private employers have for people who want to report potential problems. Another is comprehensive fraud assessment, which I think the town is looking at. There were

more issues on the Board of Education side and the most significant issues had to do with the accounting for some grants. The auditors identified some significant deficiencies which isn't the worst. The worst would be material weaknesses, but they are something that caused the committee to take notice and there has been communications with the Board. The Mayor has been in communications with the Superintendent about it and I asked the Budget Committee of the Council to meet the Finance Committee of the Board and I think we are going to do that in a week or two around the 28th to go through the findings. It does happen but it's not a typical finding in an audit and especially with the town having just sold \$22,000,000 of bonds and probably will be selling another \$20,000,000 over the next couple of years for the high school. We want to make sure that any weaknesses that we might have are taken care of now.

Mayor Montinieri followed-up with the audit results with respect to the deficiency. He met with auditors, Budget & Finance Committee, Jeff Bridges and Mike O'Neil. He consulted with them afterwards because as Jeff Kotkin, who has been on council for many years and himself eight, they have not seen a deficiency like it previously. They wanted guidance on what that meant and how we should proceed and be certain that we took the appropriate action and the most serious tone as required. I spoke with the Board Chairman and then the Superintendent of Schools about it and asked for a specific plan of action of response from the Superintendent on it since it was an unusual event, if you will. I received a very strong response from Mike Emmett in writing yesterday which will forward on to the council so they can see that. It has a specific course of action to ensure that the deficiency not only gets addressed, which it already has, the correction has been made with respect to the funding and posting of the funds on the grant but also corrective action and probably what will be determined as professional redevelopment and retraining to ensure that it doesn't happen again. So, his response I thought was pretty strong and powerful and I also spoke with the members of the Board as well and I think the meeting next week will allow us to meet with the Finance and Budget from both sides along with the auditors who are going to attend along with Mike O'Neil and Jeff Bridges so we will have hopefully a very thorough conversation with a follow-up to what was provided by the Superintendent to me yesterday. Obviously, we see this for what it is, a concern, no question. The auditors were pretty candid with us about the language of the deficiency and so we are taking a pretty assertive role to ensure that a course of action is placed before us as a council. Ultimately, the accountability for the audit results lies with the council and we want to be sure that any risk of a future issue can be basically aborted now by virtue of the remedial work. So, we'll continue of course to keep the council informed on our steps in that regard and I appreciate particularly Jeff Bridges and Mike O'Neil's efforts to help identify the concern and assist the auditors in getting it resolved. Mayor Montinieri assured that they will keep the council and the board as well as the public informed of their progress on that.

Councilor Manousos asked what the deficiency is. Mayor Montinieri responded that the specific report identified two deficiencies. They focused in on grant funding at the state and federal level that has provided annually to the Board of Education for a variety of project work. The deficiency that was specifically identified indicated that in the particular fiscal year, there was an overspending in two of the grant areas by virtue of posting that had to be corrected in the following fiscal year to correct for that overspend and it looked to be as we reviewed it from the

report provided by the auditors which was sort of a forensic look at it, is that it was a careless posting of overspend during one fiscal year that they had to correct by virtue of depletion the following and it's somewhat unusual obviously. It pointed to basically a concern about how grant funding was being tracked on an annual basis and the overspend, even though it was in the parameters of the operating budget, suggested some checks and balances were not being properly monitored. So, it was concerning. Our eyebrows were up, the auditor's eyebrows were up. They certainly communicated, I thought, assertively to the Board and the administration on the Board side about this and then of course to us as well in the report. They did say they had no concerns about it repeating and certainly we have heard from the Board that they expect no repeat. Mayor Montinieri asked if that answered Councilor Manousos' question. Councilor Manousos asked yes but was there two? Mayor Montinieri responded two in the same vein with two different grant programs and I think the total overspend was about \$102,000, but it was also from the parameters of the grant so it was only about a \$7,000 correction out of the operating budget at the end of the day because they crossed over grant years which they were able to correct and there is more detail than that but certainly was in the context of the audit report. I suspect that when we meet next week with the Board and drill in to a little bit so we can make sure. I know from myself I'm interested in hearing quite a bit more about the detail of it so I can fully comprehend what happened. I walked away from the meeting and the auditor's report before speaking with the Board thinking I really want to make sure I understood exactly what happened here because it's fairly complicated the paper trail. So, I think we'll be able to hear quite a bit more of the detail about it next week but my intent at the end is to be assured not only by the documentation that I received from Mr. Emmett yesterday but I suspect the Finance and Budget Committee of the Board along with our people and certainly Mike O'Neil and Jeff, we are going to want to feel at the end of the day that we've really ensured that we've got our arms around it so that it doesn't occur again. One of the other things that they reference is that there has been some staff turnover over the last two years so there might be some additional training needs to make sure some of the postings are more accurate in the future and I think some of that has already been tackled. This occurred in 2013 in the first case.

Councilor Kotkin suggested to Mr. Bridges that we should probably post that as a public meeting just in case any council members want to come so we don't have an issue. Also, we have asked the auditors to return to town for this meeting as well.

Councilor Hemmann reported that she attended the Wethersfield Housing Authority on the 12th and they are looking at pursuing a 501(c)(3) potentially and looking at that as a mechanism for long-term planning on their part to help sustain that organization. So they continue to explore that and work through that process.

Councilor Hemmann reported that she hit a little glitch with scheduling with the Shade Tree Commission.

Councilor Martino reported that the Economic Development Commission met and the new business directory ShopWethersfield.biz is up and running with over 400 local businesses listed. People can go on-line and see businesses in town, what they can do and pinpoint if they need

something to go and get the right person in town to shop locally. He stated that the EDIC Marketing Subcommittee is working on the site called Why Wethersfield where prospective businesses and/or residents can go to see what is available and help them make their decision as why they should move here or set up their business here and so it will be a good thing for them to do. They are looking at a front page with clicks that go to links to various things so you can see what organizations are here; churches, what's available bank wise, etc. so it's going to be really nice. They are doing this with links so they don't have to reinvent the wheel. We discussed the State of the Town Breakfast that will be at the Keeney Center on January 29th at 8:00 a.m. People can register for that through the Chamber of Commerce website.

Councilor Martino reported that the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee met last week and they are starting to plan for their Spring Fair which will be held on May 21st at the Community Center. They also said that on the corner of Nott and Wolcott Hill, the stop sign besides being bright red, the pole coming down too now is bright red. He stated that the crossing guard happened to be at the Commission meeting and it's really helped people realize there is a stop sign there and slow down and they were happy with that. They have talked to Mike Turner about having more signs done that way but there are federal guidelines on where they can go so I guess we'll do that when we can to put those in. Also, they received a pamphlet that there is a property tax relief program for the elderly and totally disabled. There are income criteria for consideration. Copies of the brochure can be obtained from Chris Taylor in Social and Youth Services. Also, check the Senior Center News for upcoming bus trips planned for March through June.

Councilor Roberts reported that the Youth Advisory Board met two weeks ago and this board has started to be very active. There are a lot of new members on it and we are appointing an under 21 member tonight. She stated that they reported that the Friday night hangout which is a program for 6th graders in town, which has been started on a pilot base this year, was a great success in the fall and it is starting again. It's every other Friday night at the Community Center and this year it is just for Hanmer and Highcrest students but next year they hope to expand it. They were averaging 70 kids a night. 98 registered and the average attending is 70. They play games, they have pizza and it has been a great success. Councilor Roberts reported that the Crossroads program after school will be starting up again at the middle school and probably under a new name. They are planning for a Youth Volunteer Recognition night, Thursday, May 7th and more information will be coming out on that. She stated that tomorrow night is the first meeting of the upcoming Memorial Day Parade. If anyone has any input or interest in suggestions let her know. Councilor Roberts asked if Mr. Bridges could start listing the Youth Advisory Board Meetings in the Manager's Report. Mr. Bridges responded sure.

Councilor Roberts commented that since Mike Hurley isn't here she wants to report that every year there is a huge St. Patrick's Day Parade in Hartford and each town that participates has to contribute significant money because the parade costs probably \$50,000 to operate. So Saturday night, there is a fundraiser and they are honoring Jeanne Freeman who started an Irish Music Program at the Wethersfield Academy of the Arts and also Officer Knapp who's the Irish Person of the Year for his contributions and volunteerism in town. It should be a good night and is pretty much a sell-out but if anyone needs a ticket you can call Mike Hurley.

Deputy Mayor Barry reported that he attended the Building Committee Meeting and the high school project continues to move forward. The new additions, the band, choral and gym have been turned over. Reports have been generally very positive on that. The girls' basketball played a game last week. There was a wrestling match last week, and the first boys' basketball game is going on as we speak now. So to the extent folks can get out and see some events you can also check out the new additions. Deputy Mayor Barry explained that the project also is obviously moving now to the interior to the old sections as well including the auditorium which has been demoed. There is a very good update on the Board of Education's website with pictures and such and they have been doing that relatively frequently. Obviously, this has been a project where there has been a lot of milestones recently and it continues to progress forward.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Martino commented that last Friday he went down to Physical Services, one of the senior maintainers there, Sal Cancelliere retired after twenty something years. Sal worked in the parks maintenance section and he oversaw a lot of the projects for maintaining our parks and sports fields in town and keeping them in good condition. We wish Sal well in his retirement and he will be surly missed because he did a lot of good stuff for the town.

Councilor Hemmann commented that she and Jeff Kotkin received an email from Steve Randall which she forwarded out to the other councilors and she read it into the record. It is with regards to one of the council agenda items about the presentation for Main and Church Street intersection project.

A copy of this letter will be included as an addendum to the meeting minutes.

Councilor Martino stated that the public hearing on that will be a week from Thursday, the 29th at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Anybody is welcome to come that night and give their opinions as to how it should be done but they've got a finalized plan for everyone to look at that night that we are getting tonight for an overview.

Councilor Rell commented that he knows that everyone is very excited that D&D Market hopefully will be coming very soon and opening up at the former Bliss Market site but for those of us in Old Wethersfield, we do have the Old Wethersfield Country Store that opened recently. I have taken my kids there and it's a very nice small little shop for people in Old Wethersfield to get local produce and they are doing a great job and glad to see that building being utilized as a little market, 221 Main St. It's good to have them in town.

Mayor Montinieri reported that the State of the Town Breakfast will be held next Thursday, on the 29th at the Keeney Memorial Center. The State delegation members will be attending and speaking, as well as himself, and the Town Manager will be talking about several variations of what's happened in town over the last year but also a follow-up to last year's breakfast. We had what we called a new business initiative through DECD and Ron Angelo who is a Deputy

Commissioner came and did a full presentation last year, he is actually going to be returning to give some results of some of the efforts that were done last year so we will get a little bit of an update and hopefully an opportunity for anybody who might be interested to also apply because it's an open opportunity on a regular basis so it's open to the public and encourage of course not only council and elected officials but members of our community.

Mayor Montinieri reported that we are finally getting a schedule together for Coffee's with the Mayor starting in February. He has asked members of the council to pick dates so we can divide it up a little bit so everybody can get a date that might work for them as well as a time. We will have that posted on the town website early next week. Of course, any member of council is welcome to attend and we look forward to getting some public input on a range of items as well as open discussion with any resident who has interest in talking with members of our council so stay tuned for that hopefully next week on the town website.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

TOWN CLERK COMMUNICATIONS

None.

COUNCIL ACTION

Deputy Mayor Barry moved **"TO MAKE A CORRECTION TO THE JANUARY 5, 2015 APPOINTMENTS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELATIONS COMMISSION, DELETE THE APPOINTMENT OF MICHELLE LAVOIE, 10 ADAMS LANE AND REPLACE WITH MICHELE ANN LAVOIE, 16 WESTWOOD DR. EFFECTIVE 1-5-15 TO 6-30-16, TO THE MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR CHILDREN, ERICA TEXEIRA, 505 SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY 1-20-15 TO 6-30-15, TO THE SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE, CHRIS SKOWRONEK, CENTERPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH, 840 SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY, 1-20-15 TO 6-30-16, TO THE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD, RACHEL BAHOUTH, 89 HANG DOG LANE, 1-20-15 TO 6-30-18"**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Martino moved **“TO REALLOCATE \$50,000 IN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FROM THE MURPHY POND PROJECT TO THE HIGH SCHOOL STORM WATER TREATMENT DEVICE PROJECT”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Mr. Bridges stated that Mike Turner, Town Engineer is here to answer any detailed questions. We are in the process of decommissioning a tank that sits underneath the high school and we have become aware that that tank has leaked for some time and part of the closure requirements of the DEEP is that we put some type of collection system in the storm water system to collect any residual oil that may leak out of the soil that hasn't already. That is going to be a town cost, a CIP cost on the cost of the renovation project. We have identified some funds in the existing capital budget that we can move to pay for such a device and we request authorization to move those funds and design and bid that project.

Mayor Montinieri asked if the leaking oil has stopped or slowed down to his knowledge. Mr. Turner responded that it has slowed down. It's probably 1% of what it was but seems to happen when we get a heavy rain storm or when the ground is really saturating. It is picking up groundwater either through curtain drains or some kind of foundation drains and carrying with it residue of oil that ultimately goes out that pipe towards Wintergreen Woods so this is the perfect opportunity for us to be able to capture both parking lot runoff and what have you as well as this particular oil and DEEP thought it was a great idea. Mayor Montinieri asked what is the status for getting the tank pumped out and then sealed. Mr. Turner responded that the tank is completely pumped out. Soil samples were taken through the sides and the bottom of the tank and the soil underneath there is essentially relatively clean. Any petroleum products are below what would be regulated levels. Adjacent to the tank were good, but still through some underground paths that we would never be able to get to under the building, some oil is still reaching out to that outfall. We currently have spill protection booms that we will be periodically checking and monitoring and changing out. It's every once in a while something would show up. Mayor Montinieri asked if we anticipate this being forever needed. Mr. Turner responded yes, this will be a permanent drainage structure just like a catch basin and it will pick up any sand, silt, sediment off the parking lots as well as oil and grease that runs off from both the parking lots and from these pipes that are connected.

Councilor Manousos asked why is this a CIP project and not part of the school project. Mr. Turner responded we looked at this as an opportunity. We have in the CIP this exact type of structure that was originally proposed for the Murphy Pond Dam project at the inlet to that Murphy Pond Dam. That project has been stalled due to the lack of state reallocation of bond money to get that project rolling. So, essentially we have a \$50,000 for this exact same type of device in another project that is not currently being used so that's why the recommendation to reallocate the funds. Councilor Manousos commented that we did use it though on part of the school project. Would that qualify us for some reimbursement? Mr. Turner responded no, we would do this as a town project. Essentially it is like an off-site improvement. Deputy Mayor Barry asked where does it go. Mr. Turner responded it's a buried structure similar to the size of a septic tank and where we are proposing to locate it is between the track and the left field of

Esposito Field, outside of any of our athletic facilities but accessible off of one of the walking paths. They do have to be maintained every three to five years, you have to suck them out and what have you.

Councilor Hemmann commented that in our materials, it talked about the state bond funds that have been available or they're not removed I guess is the right word. Do we have any more information about where they are in the pipeline of getting released? Because those were part of monies set aside as matching funds for projects Milone & McBroom Study. Do we have any news about that? I know that you have talked to our representatives. Is there any update. Mr. Bridges responded that we put together a packet of information based upon what the DEEP was looking for and we've submitted it through our local representation to work with DEEP to do this reallocation so that's where it is. Mr. Turner responded that it is in the State's hands. Councilor Hemmann asked how much is matching, a \$180,000. Mr. Turner responded we have \$188,000, the state has close to \$1,000,000. Mr. Bridges commented that these are bond authorizations that go back to the 80's.

Councilor Roberts asked where is Murphy Pond. Mr. Turner responded it is off of Coppermill. Councilor Roberts asked if this is the one that goes by Cloverdale. Mr. Turner responded no. Councilor Roberts asked where on Coppermill is it. Mr. Turner responded between Carriage Hill and Coppermill. Councilor Roberts asked how much is the total, the \$50,000 is it going to take care of the whole cost. Mr. Turner responded that we haven't sized the project yet. I'm figuring that we should basically reallocate the entire funds and then we can see the best, I don't have a final design or cost estimate of the structure. We were figuring \$50,000 at Murphy Pond and it's going to be a similar structure.

Councilor Rell asked how long is the Murphy Pond Dam project been on the CIP. Mr. Turner responded the study was done in 1995 as a recommendation and we ultimately hired the engineering firm and the firm went bankrupt and then we hired a replacement engineering firm to kind of pick up the plans and recertify them. Councilor Rell stated for 20 years we have had silt and debris and oil and grease runoff going down and it is still going to continue going into Murphy Pond. Councilor Rell asked if 20 years ago, did the engineers determine if there was any type of serious environmental impact back then that maybe we've let go. I'm sure 20 years ago this was on the radar screen but it wasn't a requirement nor is it a specific requirement right now. It's just the right thing to do and Murphy Pond, the unit would be used more for road salt and sediment than it would be for oils and grease because that pond has silted in over the years and there's no access point to get in there to be able to keep things clean. Current design what they do is put out what is known as a forebay or a smaller pond where the pipes come in and let everything settle out there and then kind of overflow into the big pond so you do have an access point to clean it. Murphy Pond doesn't have that type of physical access. Councilor Rell stated that he just wanted to make sure that it wasn't grease or oils. Mr. Turner responded that Murphy Pond was intended more for silt and sediment and again that was our recommendation to Capital Improvement Committee that once we dredge this thing out we don't want to keep doing this every five years we want to have an ability to address it.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Mayor Montinieri announced that Mr. Bridges provided the Annual 2015-2016 Budget Calendar and asked if anyone had any questions about the dates that Jeff provided.

BIDS

Mr. Turner stated that he just wanted to give Council a brief preliminary introduction of the project, the intersection improvements at Main, Church and Marsh. This project has been funded through a DECD grant, through the Urban Act funds and this is the same money that's funding drainage improvements at Millwoods, at Montanaro Field as well as intersection projects and they are basically \$225,000 flagged towards the improvements to Main, Marsh and Church. The drawing that you see in front of you is a preliminary plan that was prepared by Luch's Associates that will be the focus of presentation at our public hearing as Councilor Martino pointed out next Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. in this room. We all know what the problems are down at the intersection. It's just a wide vast intersection. It was designed that way back in 1995 through the DECD grant that did all the sidewalks and lanterns, etc. It's my understanding that the intersection supposedly is so wide and that was because Frank Morris who owns the farm and trucking facility on Broad Street could not take his trucks down Broad Street and then go down taking a right on Marsh Street to get to 91 so he would have to come up to this intersection from Broad St., take a left on Marsh St. go up to the intersection and do a U-turn with a semi-tractor trailer around the flag pole and then come back down Marsh St. and then be able to get onto 91 and that's why the intersection itself was wide and vast of pavement to be able to accommodate his business. The trucking facility is no longer there. There is not a lot of accident history at this intersection and our discussions with the Police Department is it's probably because it is so vast that people are very cautious coming into the intersection. They just don't know what to do and what to expect from the other drivers. So what this plan is looking to do is to tighten it down to a 4-way intersection that's a much more normal geometry and basically that involves 11-foot driving lanes with five foot shoulders. So basically you end up with two 30-foot roads that are intersection and a very uniform four-way intersection layout. At this point, we are still showing the turning lane coming from Marsh St. going right towards the motor vehicles, although we are doing traffic counts to verify that that lane is needed. There are obviously several components that we have met over the last six to eight months with the Historical Society to talk about the flag pole that is there, the plantings that are on the island. There is actually a bronze monument siting the location of the original meeting house. So we have tried to factor all of these constraints into this preliminary design and essentially bring this forward for comment. Now, I did receive a copy of Mr. Randall's email. This concept basically came from the 2008 Milner Report the Old Wethersfield Master Plan. That plan Milner Associates they actually recommended a roundabout at this location and we are going to have those plans so that we can present those to the public next Thursday so everyone can be reminded of what that looked liked. It was the Committee's decision to not recommend the roundabout and to go with a conventional 4-way intersection. That is basically it. What we are going to try and do is outline where we were before the intersection was improved, all of the things that were kind of looked at, the different kind of configurations and layouts to get to this point. Our traffic engineers, Luch's

Associates, has done traffic counts. The traffic counts do not warrant this turning into a four-way stop sign intersection. The warrants are there for a two-way intersection that exist today. But I think with the shrinking down of the intersection in a couple of cases, some of those corners, the pavement edge of the corner radiuses are going to come in 25 feet on either side, so you are going to see a marked difference of where cars are going to be stopped at stopped bars, where the crosswalks are going to be positioned to make it much more safer. There are cross walks that come from in front of Village Pizza towards the flag pole where there is no sidewalk, no handicap ramp at that location. It leads people essentially to an isolated island that they couldn't get off of. So there are a few issues that we are trying to deal but we wanted to give you folks a preliminary glance at it so you can study it. I know Councilor Martino will be there at the meeting. He told me that.

Mr. Bridges stated that one of the other things about having it before you tonight is to get it out there and get some energy behind it and get some information out there so that people hear about the meeting. We will put out press releases and the notices and so forth. This gives people the chance to watch it at home or listen to us, a chance to hear this. One point on the time frame, we all had an expectation that this would have been done already but I think we took a lot of time and we got a lot of good information from the Historical Society. They really helped us with doing some in-depth research on the location for some of these monuments at the intersection so we know what was needed to stay where it was to be accurate and what things could move. So that took a lot of time but we got a lot of good information out of that. I understand that this was supposed to be accelerated but we wanted to make sure that we covered those basis first because this is a critical intersection and there are some critical monuments down there that are very important to the community. We expect that we will have this meeting next week and if we need more, we can have more but this is a very important project to Old Wethersfield and the community and we want to make sure we get this right.

Councilor Manousos asked if there were stop signs on Church and on Marsh. Mr. Turner responded correct. Councilor Manousos asked what is the minimum distance between the stop sign and say your first on-street parking space. Mr. Turner responded that he believes that statute is 25 feet. Councilor Manousos asked if it is possible for consideration that when you look north on Main that you can extend the on-street spaces since they are going to be reworking that corner. Mr. Turner responded that they did look at that a little bit. The problem there is not necessarily the proximity to stop bars and cross walks, it's the trees. There are several huge trees with very shallow root systems and the last thing we want to do is start impacting those huge chestnut and sycamore trees. Councilor Manousos asked if those trees pose a health hazard or safety hazard if they have shallow roots and are that big. Mr. Turner responded they are not in the walk area they are in the area between the sidewalk and the curb and we are expanding that curb area. Councilor Manousos asked the same question if the root system is that shallow are they safe? Mr. Turner responded that they have been there for 150 years. Mr. Turner responded that we can ask the Tree Warden for his input. Councilor Manousos asked if there is a way to leave them there and still get some on-street parking because there is a desperate need to more on-street parking. Mr. Turner responded absolutely.

Councilor Hemmann commented that currently as exists today, the turning onto Main Street going north around the cross walk is the green traffic sign telling motorists to stop for pedestrian crossing, people think that's a stop sign. They stop there all the time. As a just a matter of not knowing what else to do and I understand that bringing this together should help some of that because it's going to be closer, however, I'm a little concerned that there wouldn't be consideration of putting the stop sign in and making it a four-way stop because it can be difficult at times to get through that intersection and especially when the cars coming south on Main, they stop there and just don't know what to do. I'm assuming that they are not residents, but they are either coming from the motor vehicle department or some other place in town, but they do stop. Mr. Turner responded that the one thing about stop signs and you have heard about stop signs occasionally in some of your meetings, there are very specific warrants when you can put in a stop sign and it has to do with the traffic volume and accidents and accidents being able to be cured by the stop sign. This is a wide-open intersection. There is plenty of sight distances, there is no accident history at all. Councilor Hemmann commented that that's not true. Mr. Turner commented, right at the intersection here. Nothing that can be solved by a stop sign but we did research on that and will be able to talk about that at the public meeting.

Mr. Bridges added that if there is a single warrant that supports a stop sign, we will take a hard look at that, absolutely.

Councilor Kotkin commented that just thinking of the Steve Randall letter, this is the area where one of our designated bike routes is. Is there any thought along here of any sort of bike lanes along Main Street. Mr. Turner responded that there are going to be shoulder stripes which are five feet off the curb which can serve as a bike lane. Councilor Kotkin asked will it be designated or marked as a bike lane. Mr. Turner responded we haven't marked our bike lanes other than signing anywhere in town and I think that was a recommendation years ago from CIRMA. He stated that we can certainly revisit that thinks it would be something that we would want to do system-wide for the entire bike path. Mr. Turner stated there is sufficient room for bike lanes here.

Mayor Montinieri asked what is the timeframe if this were to continue to progress as now it's going. Presuming the public totally endorses this plan and give us the thumbs up, then we'll tell the engineer to proceed with the final design and bid documents and we'll probably have it out to bid in April or May and possibly constructed near the end of the summer.

Councilor Rell thanked Mike for the presentation and asked if there is a new island that would be proposed for Church St. Mr. Turner responded yes, the engineers have shown an island on the Church St. side similar to the island on the Marsh St. side essentially to align the vehicles there. Councilor Rell asked if we received any input from the business owners in that area. Mr. Turner responded yes that's what we are going to be soliciting. You are seeing it first live here.

Mayor Montinieri thanked Mike Turner for the presentation and stated that if any of the public wants to reach out they can go to that meeting or reach out to you if they can't go to that meeting.

Councilor Martino moved **“TO APPROVE THE WORK ORDER WITH AIG FOR ABATEMENT WORK AT WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL FOR \$24,630.00”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Mr. Bridges responded that this work was done over the Christmas break. It was kind of an emergency abatement. We discovered some additional areas due to a cracking concrete floor in the girls locker room. We originally had not anticipated doing anything to that floor other than putting a ceiling coat and levelling coat on but when that happened, the levelling coat shrunk and cracked the concrete that was there exposing the otherwise encapsulated asbestos. So that had to be abated while the building was closed for the holiday. We got a separate bid from another company other than SMI because they were consumed otherwise with the other abatement project that we had scheduled. This company came in and did the work.

Mayor Montinieri commented that it all went as expected he assumes. Mr. Turner responded yes.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Martino moved **“TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE AND APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THE VOIP PHONE SYSTEM FROM BROADVIEW NETWORKS FOR THE WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Mr. Bridges invited Keith Rafaniello to the podium to explain this motion.

Mr. Rafaniello explained that they have been exploring their options for voice over IP which essentially is taking advantage of our internet and infrastructure for our phones similar to as a home consumer, we have these triple play offers from the cable company where we can get phone and internet all over the same cable or lines. It's similar to what we are looking at for the school district and this could be also benefitting the town as well in the future where we use our existing internet infrastructure to eliminate some of the direct AT&T which is now Frontier lines that we've been paying for. So we estimate that we will save 30% annually in what we pay for telecommunications services with this. We did look at all of our options. We looked at Frontier's option, AVAYA, Mitel, Total Comm and Broadview and Broadview really came out head and shoulders about the rest. Mr. Rafaniello then passed out some handouts which will be included in the minutes record. He explained that Broadview is a cloud based solution just like both the schools and the town have switched to cloud-based email, this is going to be cloud-based VOIP. Our current phone system is the Commodore 64 systems. There is no caller ID, no forwarding calls to your cell phone, no calling in from the outside to check your voicemail. There is no getting your voice mail via email. It is a very limited system with a server that is about 13 years old and whenever the phones go down we have to reboot it. The difference with this cloud-based system is that we don't own the server, Broadview does, and they are responsible for our updating it in the future years. If you look through this document, it does say that there is no capital up front because Broadview does offer a rent-a-phone option. For the high

school we didn't think this made sense. It makes more sense to buy the phones that way we don't have to pay every month to rent the phones. That's what the \$40,000 is for. We'll own the phones going forward and if we ever downsize or for whatever reason need less phones at the high school, those phones could be moved to other buildings or to the town offices. Going forward our goal is to move this phone system to the other six schools and the Stillman office and hopefully the town as well, I know they were hoping that we would chose an option that would work for them and this option certainly would. Maybe in the future it would make sense in some spaces to rent the phones. The advantage of renting them is that if we did downsize, we would just turn the phone back in and we are no longer paying for it, we don't own that capital. As I mentioned when we have this system in place, we'll be able to eliminate our Frontier circuits and at the High School instantly it will save us 30% annually and when we move to the other schools which we hope to do aggressively and rapidly, we'll save 30% districtwide annually on our telecommunications.

Mr. Bridges responded that he agrees with Keith, the Town Hall phones, the community center phones having linked over the past couple of years all of the buildings with fiber optics, it makes VOIP possible and it makes it beneficial, so we are enthusiastic about getting this system up at the high school and looking at how we can deploy this to other buildings in the community. It's a good start for everybody. It's part of a process.

Mr. Rafaniello pointed out in the package the 16-key phone that they will be ordering which will go into all of the classrooms is the least expensive one that they will be ordering. The 24-key phone will go in some of their administrative offices. They will only have two of the 48-key phones which will go in the main office. Mr. Rafaniello stated that it is computer based so we log in and when we hire a new teacher, we just log in and enter their name and extension, what privileges they have, what extensions they have access to transfer to. So, it is all computerized and web based. Our tech. department will be managing it. Mr. Bushey's department in the past has been handling the phones and the technology department will be inheriting it now. We are excited about this because it is a huge jump forward from the Commadore 64.

Councilor Hemmann asked will this allow you to collect some data so you get a better sense of usage of phone lines. Mr. Rafaniello responded that's a great question. Yes, everything will be able to be tracked, print reports, make sense of where we maybe don't need phones and we can downsize and reallocate resources.

Councilor Kotkin asked what sort of warranties will we have on the equipment that we are buying. Mr. Rafaniello responded that it's a three-year warranty with the equipment and again I really believe that in some places we probably will end up renting some phones but it's like \$3.00 per phone per month rental fee but the fact that we are buying the phones for the high school gives us some flexibility to move some equipment around as we need to.

Councilor Roberts questioned the not included amount of \$3,190.20. Mr. Rafaniello responded that there is two line items one is for the equipment and one is for the service. We have some help up front from the company that is helping us install this phone system just to get it

configured because we have all new switches which this council approved in the high school and they are layered switches. So the way it works is that our internet will be on one layer, the phone system will be on its own layer so there is some configuration involved. Also, just setting up and configuring all the phones initially and offering training to our staff that is what the \$6,000.00. Mr. Rafaniello explained that the \$3,190.20 monthly total is what the Board of Education will pay. That's our monthly fee for the phone service. So, \$3,190 x 12 is a lot less than \$60,000 we are paying at AT&T now per year. Councilor Roberts thanked Mr. Rafaniello.

Councilor Rell asked that you had mentioned starting off at the high school it makes perfect sense with the renovation, possibly expanding to the other schools and the Stillman Building. What percentage is it for the high school. It is 50% and then you go into the elementary school. Mr. Rafaniello stated that we have 200 phones at the high school and about 140 at the five elementary schools combined and about 100 at the middle school. So the high school is about half just under half of the district. Councilor Rell commented so if we ever did look to expand, it depends on how much, if we would go with Broadview again, probably a little bit more than \$40,000. Mr. Rafaniello responded to buy the phones yes. Councilor Rell asked to complete the whole district. Mr. Rafaniello responded yes.

Mayor Montinieri commented that this doesn't require any funding from us, right, we are just approving this. Mr. Bridges responded that this will come out of the project budget.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

None.

MINUTES

Councilor Kotkin moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 5, 2015"**, seconded by Councilor Martino.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd. commented on the leaking oil gasoline tank and what it will do to underground water systems. He stated that we are extremely lucky that this property doesn't have wells or we would have a serious health problem. He commented that the lead abatement at the high school just keeps costing us more and more. He commented on the different costs going on at the State Capitol and stated that it seems that we are surrounded by all kinds of financial problems and doesn't know how it got all out of control but HART and the Academy they shouldn't have had any of these kinds of problems yet they are going to walk away and we are probably going to end up picking up the tabs for them. He stated that he never hears

any Town Council members or any towns talking about what's going on in the press and it is eating away at us financially. He stated that the town council should speak out about these issues that are going on and that he doesn't hear anything from the Council about the issues at the State Capitol.

David Caruk, 149 Broad Street, commented that there aren't too many people coming here and that there was one public speaker here to make any comment other than himself. He stated that it is unfortunate and wishes there were more people here. Mr. Caruk commented about the intersection of Main Street and Marsh Street and stated that that is something that has been needed for decades and that for a long time that has been a confusing intersection and that you don't know whether someone is going to stop or go. He stated that he agrees with the proposal and stated that the intersection is very tricky and it is about time that they do something about the intersection and he supports the proposal to change it. Mr. Caruk also commented that he wants to support the grocery store on Main St. in Old Wethersfield and he hopes that they stay in business for a while.

Mr. Bridges announced that there will be another public meeting on the intersection on January 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 p.m., Councilor Kotkin moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Martino. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

Approved by Vote of Council
February 17, 2015